

Looking Forward

- Support peace building and reconciliation by strengthening business linkages between diverse regional and ethnic communities.
- Promote further the sharing of inter-chamber experiences and best practices.
- Regional chamber clusters to collaborate on projects that are of common interest.
- Develop conflict prevention mechanisms within regional business community.
- Promote Corporate Social Responsibility at regional level.
- Promote a more inclusive business approach towards marginalized groups in the economic sphere.
- Collective lobbying with the private sector and civil society in the regions, for appropriate regional development policies, to overcome the traditional “Colombo centric” approach that has not succeeded in Sri Lanka.
- Collaboration with the Government, the National/Colombo based Chambers, “Big Business” Civil Society Organisations and the donor community for capacity building and regional development.
- Provide regional networking and institutional capacity for project facilitation.
- A strong and professional Secretariat as a focal point for networking and communications and institutional development.

“BPA envisions Peace & Prosperity in a united Sri Lanka through Regional Understanding and Empowerment”

Our Members

- 1 Ampara District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 2 Anuradapura District Chamber of Commerce
- 3 Batticaloa District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 4 Central Province Women's Chamber of Small Industries & Commerce
- 5 Chamber of Commerce & Industries of Yarlpanam
- 6 Chamber of Commerce & Industry Central Province
- 7 Chamber of Commerce & Industry Uva Province
- 8 Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Trincomalee District
- 9 Chamber of Small & Micro Industries Jaffna
- 10 Galle District Chamber of Commerce
- 11 Galle District Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs
- 12 Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce
- 13 Jaffna Chamber of Commerce
- 14 Kalutara District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 15 Kegalle District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- 16 Killinochchi District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- 17 Mannar District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- 18 Matale District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 19 Matara District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 20 Moneragala District Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 21 Mullaithivu District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- 22 Polonnaruwa District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- 23 Sabaragamuwa Province Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 24 Vavuniya District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- 25 Wayamba Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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The Business for Peace Alliance



**Sri Lanka's Regional Business Network
for Conflict Transformation,
Regional Empowerment
& Corporate Social Responsibility**

Background

The BPA is a network of all, main regional Chambers of Commerce throughout Sri Lanka. The BPA was founded in November 2002.

In the Sri Lankan context where there is tremendous marginalization of the peripheral areas and most policies affecting the regions are made in the centre, in Colombo, BPA was established as a collective initiative of the regional chambers themselves.

The BPA is distinctive amongst chamber movements in Sri Lanka with its “bottom up approach”. All decisions taken at the BPA and BPA projects are implemented by the regional representatives/chambers themselves, to cater to the specific needs of the regions. The BPA's governing body is made up exclusively of representatives from the regional chambers of commerce.

Mission and Core Objectives

- Strengthen regional linkages and economic activity through Chambers of Commerce
- Lobby for regional aspirations through regional private sector inclusion in economic development and the peace process.
- Create local ownership for regional empowerment and the peace process - “a bottom up” approach.
- Commitment towards Conflict Transformation at a regional grassroots level.
- Practice Corporate Social Responsibility.

Achievements: Projects & Activities

Inter-regional Networking

- **BPA meetings** - Members meet in the regions to discuss local issues, brainstorm solutions, share best practices.
- **Peace Visits** - Inter regional networking of Chamber members, for social, cultural and business exchanges.
- **Publication of the Regional Business Directory of Sri Lanka.**
- **Peace Bridge** - Inter-regional trade & investment fair with multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural events and exchanges.
- **Networking Regional Business for Conflict Transformation.**

Regional Empowerment, Leadership, Skills Development, Conflict Transformation & Corporate Social Responsibility

- Training workshops, studying best practices, professionalism, and capacity building for Conflict Transformation and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Exchanges with “big business”
- International exchanges.

Communication

- Communication and Media coverage - fostering national unity and regional empowerment.
- “Made in Sri Lanka” publicity for regional entrepreneurs.
- Links between regional business and regional media.
- Communications support to members.
- Publicity, promotion and presentation skills development of regional chambers.

Achievements: Projects & Activities

Regional Voice

A platform for dialogue and collective lobbying with policy makers on regional issues affecting peace and economic stability.

- Domestic Investors Dialogue - platform for dialog and collective lobbying with policy makers on regional issues affecting peace and economic stability.
- Catalyst - for mobilizing direct funding to the regions, project feasibility studies, project proposals.
- Proposals for Constitutional Reforms - developed through regional understanding for national unity.
- Proposals for the National Budget - developed through regional understanding for regional economic empowerment.

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt